Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application. The following amendments are made without prejudice and do not constitute an admission regarding the patentability of the amended subject matter and should not be so construed. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in this or any other appropriate patent application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 – 17. (Cancelled).

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the proton pump inhibitor present in the pharmaceutical composition is lansoprazole, or a free base, free acid, salt, hydrate, prodrug thereof.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the proton pump inhibitor present in the pharmaceutical composition is esomeprazole, or a free base, free acid, salt, hydrate, prodrug thereof.

20 – 59. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously presented) A method of treating GERD symptoms in a subject in need by administering a pharmaceutical composition at least 30 minutes ~~within about 60 minutes~~ prior to a meal, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises: (a) a therapeutically effective amount of at least one non-enteric coated acid labile proton pump inhibitor, and (b) at least one buffering agent in an amount sufficient to inhibit or reduce degradation of some of the proton pump inhibitor; wherein upon oral administration of the composition to the subject, the subject exhibits a plasma concentration of proton pump inhibitor of greater than about 425 ng/ml within about 1 hour, C_{max} of greater than about 500 ng/ml, and T_{max} within about 1.5 hours after administration.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein upon oral administration of the composition to the subject, the subject exhibits a plasma concentration of proton pump inhibitor Tmax within about 1 hour after administration.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein upon oral administration of the composition to the subject, the subject exhibits a plasma concentration of proton pump inhibitor of greater than about 750 ng/ml within about 1 hour after administration.

63. Cancelled.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein upon oral administration of the composition to the subject, the subject exhibits a plasma concentration of proton pump inhibitor Cmax of greater than about 1000 ng/ml after administration.

65. Cancelled.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein upon oral administration of the composition to the subject, the subject exhibits a plasma concentration of proton pump inhibitor between about 425 ng/ml and about 1200 ng/ml within about 1 hour after administration.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein upon oral administration of the composition to the subject, the subject exhibits a plasma omeprazole concentration of between about 750 ng/ml and about 2000 ng/ml within about 1 hour after administration.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein upon oral administration of a subsequent dose of the pharmaceutical composition, the subject exhibits a higher plasma concentration of the proton pump inhibitor that the subject exhibited after the initial dose.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein upon oral administration of the composition to the subject, the subject exhibits a plasma concentration of proton pump inhibitor Tmax within about 45 minutes after administration.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the GERD symptom is heartburn.

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